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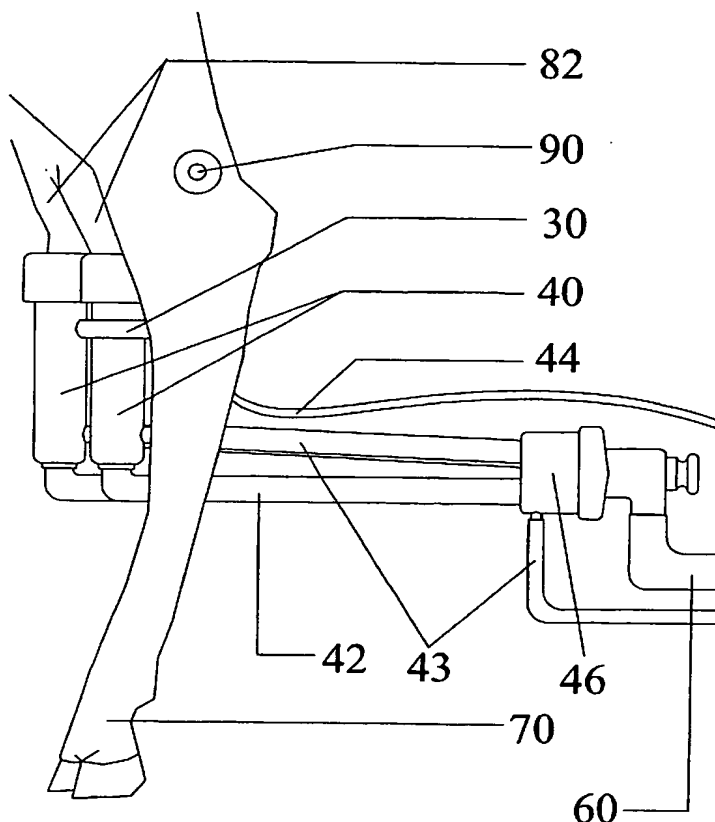
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: IDENTIFICATION OF SMALL RUMINANTS



(57) Abstract: A system for identifying a ruminant, which is being milked. The system includes a transmitter (20) attached to a hind leg (70) of the ruminant and the transmitter transmits a predefined signal, which identifies the ruminant to which the transmitter is attached. The system includes at least one teat cup (40) on which is attached an antenna (30) to receive the signal with which to identify the animal. The teat cup is positionable on the ruminant's teat. A method for using the system is taught as is a teat cup (40) having an antenna (30) fixed thereon.



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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IL03/00034

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A01J 3/00, 5/00

US CL : 119/14.18

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 119/14.18, 14.01-14.55, 712, 908; 343/718, 873

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y,P	US 6,497,197 B1 (Huisma) 24 December 2002 (24.12.2002) entire patent	1-26
Y	US 6,279,507 B1 (Van der Lely et al) 28 August 2001 (28.08.2001) entire patent	1-26
Y	US 6,111,508 A1 (Ensor et al) 29 August 2000 (29.08.2000) column 5, line 37.	1-26
A	US 4,262,632 A (Hanton et al) 21 April 1981 (21.04.1981) entire patent	1-26
Y	US 4,617,876 A (Hayes) 21 October 1986 (21.10.1986) entire patent	1-26
Y	US 5,996,529 A (Sissom et al) 7 December 1999 (07.12.1999) entire patent	1-26
Y	US 4,718,374 A (Hayes) 12 January 1988 (12.01.1988) entire patent	1-26
A	US 3,852,758 A (Polson) 03 Decmber 1974 (03.12.1974) entire patent	16-19

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"B" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T"

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 March 2004 (15.03.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

22 APR 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IL03/00034

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐
☐

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IL03/00034

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This International Searching Authority considers that the international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention (Rules 13.1, 13.2, and 13.3) for the reasons indicated below: The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The special technical feature (STF) of Group I is a system and method of identifying a ruminant with a transmitter on the hind part and an antenna in the teat cup. The STF of group I is silent from Group II. Further, the STF of group II is the structural encasing of the antenna in the teat apparatus. This STF is silent from Group I. Thus lack of unity is held by the Examiner. See 37 CFR 1.475.